atfa®
Australian timber flooring association

'Flooring Waste Removal'

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Flooring Products Waste Disposal

Responsible disposal of coatings and adhesives waste

The ATFA promotes the responsible disposal of process waste that includes coatings, adhesives and solvents.

Responsible disposal includes

- Compliance to local, state and federal government regulations and guidelines for the disposal of hazardous wastes.
- Not causing contamination or damage to storm water, sewer or waterways.
- Avoiding damage to client premises including buildings, gardens and surrounds.
- Disposal that minimises personal injury risk to self or any other party.

Physical state of the waste

Liquid wastes are invariably classified as hazardous if they are either flammable or likely to cause damage to the environment. Solid flammable waste is generally legally disposed of into land fill as per any flammable plastic material. This however needs to be confirmed with your local council.

Conversion of liquid hazardous waste requiring special disposal, into solid waste is a preferred, compliant and less expensive option for disposal.

Consult the relevant Material Safety Data Sheet for specific information generally found under the heading 'Disposal Considerations'.

Adhesives

1. Moisture Cure Polyurethane adhesives – solvent containing and solvent free.

Dispose of by either:

1.1 Leaving open container exposed to air to allow it to solidify. This can take many weeks.

1.2 Pouring water into the container and roughly blending in. Only half fill the container being used as some polyurethanes will foam when exposed to water. Solidification should occur in a matter of days. Container should also be in a well ventilated location as fumes will be generated in solvent containing adhesives.

1.3 Pouring a layer of water over the adhesive in the part full container. This minimises foaming but can take some weeks for diffusion to solidify the bulk material.

2. Adhesives

1.4 Add 1 cup of vinegar per litre and stir. This will coagulate the adhesive. Strain off solids through coarse flour sieve and discard into solid waste. Liquid residue can be disposed of onto soil.

3. Disposal of solventborne adhesives

Add the adhesive to sand or water dampened rapid set cement dry mix, blend well and allow to solidify in a well vented location.

Once solidified, dispose of into normal land fill waste.

Finishes/ Coatings

1. Solventborne Polyurethane Coatings

Consult the relevant MSDS regarding safety and handling of solventborne polyurethanes, as well as the ATFA VOC policy document: ATFA Takes a Stance in VOC Ratings in Coatings and Adhesives.

1.1 Two pack

Use a roller ring to squeeze out the bulk of coatings contained within the application roller into the plastic bag lined application tray or bucket. Tie the bag and place in a rigid container to solidify overnight.

Mix component parts together and allow to set. Only half fill containers as foaming can occur as well as heat build-up from the exotherm. Conduct operation in well ventilated area as solvent fumes will emanate from the warm reacting mixture.

If waste cleaning solvents need to be disposed off, add these to the mixture at up to 30%.

Once solidified, dispose of into normal land fill waste.

1.2 One pack

Use a roller ring to squeeze out the bulk of coatings contained within the application roller into the plastic bag lined application tray or bucket. Add 1 cup of water and mix in with a stick or such. Tie the bag and place in a rigid container to solidify.

In a quarter full drum or waste container of the polyurethane, add 1 cup of water and blend in to the mix. Some heat generation and foaming will occur. Allow to solidify over the next 24 hours.

If waste cleaning solvents need to be disposed off, add these to the mixture at up to 30%.
Once solidified, dispose of into normal land fill waste.

2. Waterborne Polyurethane Coatings

2.1 Two pack

Mix components together in a 25% full container and allow to react. Some foaming will occur. Conduct operation in a well ventilated area.

2.2 One pack

Add 1 cup of vinegar per litre and allow to coagulate. Strain off solids through coarse flour sieve and discard into solid waste. Liquid residue can be disposed of onto soil.

Once solidified, dispose of into normal land fill waste.

3. Oil Modifieds, hard wax oils and alkyd finishes

Add the adhesive to sand or water dampened rapid set cement dry mix, blend well and allow to solidify in a well vented location.

Once solidified, dispose of into normal land fill waste.

Large volume flammable or hazardous liquid waste disposal

Where solidification and disposal of liquid hazardous waste by conversion into solid waste for normal landfill disposal is not considered practical such as larger volumes of cleaning solvents, contact your local council or EPA for advice on the lowest cost compliant disposal of class 3 flammable paint material UN code 1263. Disposal of flammable liquid or hazardous waste is best disposed of as it occurs rather than letting it accumulate.

Disposal of adhesive containers

Ensure containers and scraps are contained and have dried completely, then dispose of utilising a commercial disposal service. Note, often water based products may also contain volatile substances. Sausage pack wrapping (flexible containers) are quickly growing with popularity as disposal of used wrappers is more effective than disposing of metal or plastic drums.

Disposal of re-sand dust

Re-sand dust often contains hazardous substances from coating or adhesive products, coating from older floors may even contain lead (in this case check with your local authority on acceptable removal practices). It is recommended re-sand dust be carefully collected from the site and disposed of utilising a commercial disposal service. Dust should be placed in strong, bio-degradable bags. In the case of re-sand dust where an oil based product was utilised, ensure the dust is first drenched in water to avoid spontaneous combustion, immediately after sanding and before disposal.

Clean dust

Clean wood dust (wood, bamboo and from non-coated engineered flooring) is considered a carcinogen and should also be disposed of utilising a commercial disposal service. It is not advisable to use on gardens, in fires or other domestic situations. Dust should be placed in strong, bio-degradable bags. It may be possible to provide the clean dust to a bio-mass producer.

Flooring off-cuts

Often, the public may seek off cuts for firewood, this is OK for many species though some have characteristics inappropriate for burning in domestic situations, these include (but are not restricted to):

- Timber treated against insect attack
- Laminate and engineered flooring
- Bamboo flooring